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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

May 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We very much appreciate your support of the amendment to the 2019 Legislative Branch spending bill that would defund the post-speaker office that retired Speakers of the House enjoy for up to five years after they leave office.

We find it ironic that you did not bring our legislation to the floor for a vote, but are now trying to claim it as part of your legacy. With all due respect, the American people deserve more from House leadership.

Again, we are very pleased to see this language included in the 2019 spending bill, but it should have been included in the 2016 spending bill instead. Our original letter to you is enclosed along with a few articles detailing our efforts over the years.

Thank you for your time and support of this crucial legislation.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Enclosure

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2015

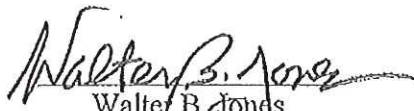
The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Speaker Ryan,

Today, we introduced H.R. 4195, legislation to repeal the authorization for funding of offices for former Speakers of the House. At a time when our national debt is quickly approaching \$19 trillion it is offensive for the public to fund such an office. Upon retirement, former speakers have access to many perks and opportunities including government pensions, book deals, lobbying, speaking engagements, and consulting. Regardless of these opportunities, it does not make sense to provide taxpayer-funded offices to former speakers for five years.

We are writing to ask that language be included in the upcoming omnibus that prohibits funding of such an office, and to ask for your public support of this bill in the coming year. The public's low approval rating of Congress is both indisputable and understandable. The inclusion of this language would be a great first step toward regaining the public's trust. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress


Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

May 9, 2018

(<https://www.rollcall.com>)

(<https://www.CaliforniaPost.com>)

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Jones, Massie Take Aim at Perks for Former Speakers

Menu

Search



Jones, left, and Massie hold a news conference about a bill they plan to introduce regarding use of Capitol office space and staff provided to ex-speakers. (Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call)

Lindsey McPherson (</author/lindseymcphersoncqrollcall-com>)

@lindsemcpherson (www.twitter.com/lindsemcpherson)

Posted Dec 9, 2015 10:46 AM

Reps. Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., and Thomas Massie, R-Ky., plan to introduce a bill Wednesday to eliminate a perk that allows former speakers to set up a government-funded office with as many as three aides.

"I'm going out on a limb here, but I think if we could get this bill to the floor that every member of Congress would vote with us to eliminate this program," Massie said.

"The vehicle for doing that is the omnibus. If they so choose, they could defund this in the omnibus this week, but the probable vehicle is this summer in the appropriations cycle -- Walter and I will offer an amendment," he added.

Massie and Jones said they were unaware that former speakers were afforded taxpayer-funded offices after resigning from Congress until Roll Call reported (<http://blogs.rollcall.com/218/boehner-speaker-taxpayers-office/>) on then-Speaker John A. Boehner's plans for his post-speaker office in November.

But the pair of conservatives, who voted against Boehner during the January floor vote to re-elect him as speaker, say their bill is not designed to further attack the Ohio Republican.

Jones said he would have introduced a bill to deauthorize the post-speaker's office 20 years ago if he had known about it then. "It's just as wrong," he said.

"If this had been Nancy Pelosi, I would've cosponsored the same bill," Massie added.

But they acknowledge that Boehner is in a position where he personally doesn't need taxpayers to foot the bill for anything he does.

"John Boehner is a millionaire when he left the speakership and will become more of a millionaire by being a consultant, writing a book, playing a little golf for money -- those kinds of things," Jones said.

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The post-speaker's office was created in 1970 for then-Speaker John W. McCormack before his retirement.

"He was in his 80s when he stepped down and he was not beholden to special interests like speakers are today," said Jones, whose father was elected to Congress during McCormack's tenure.

Although Jones and Massie are not members of the House Freedom Caucus, they expect many members of that conservative group to co-sponsor their bill. But Jones also predicts Democrats would support the measure, too.

"We'll see where it goes," Jones said. "But Thomas is right. Our best opportunity probably is to make our stand now and be very hopeful that in the spring, summer time frame with the appropriations bills we can offer an amendment and take it out."

Related: Taxpayers Foot Bill for Boehner's Post-Speaker Office (<http://blogs.rollcall.com/218/boehner-speaker-taxpayers-office/>)

10 Anti-Boehner Republicans Who Didn't Vote for Ryan (<http://blogs.rollcall.com/218/ryan-speaker-vote-boehner/>)

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POLITICS 12/09/2015 12:08 pm ET | Updated Dec 19, 2016

Two Conservative Lawmakers Are Still Trying To Get Rid Of John Boehner

He's not the speaker anymore, but he still gets some taxpayer-funded perks.



By Matt Fuller



THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON — Like the smoke stains in his old office, former Speaker John Boehner isn't really going anywhere — at least not as far as the taxnover is concerned



Two Conservative Lawmakers Are Still Trying To Get Rid Of John Boehner



Under congressional rules, the former speaker is allowed to keep a Capitol Hill office at taxpayer expense for five years, complete with franking privileges, a budget for office furnishings and three staffers making six-figure salaries.

"I guess they're going to pay for his toilet tissue too," said Rep. Walter Jones Jr. (R-N.C.), who is introducing a bill with Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) to deauthorize the so-called post-speaker office.

Jones and Massie held a sparsely attended press conference Wednesday morning — The Huffington Post was the only outlet present — to call for an end to the post-speakership perk. And while the apparently ongoing conservative crusade against Boehner wasn't enough to motivate the rest of the congressional press corps to brave a 9 a.m. outdoor news conference in December, Jones and Massie had fun at an event where members of Congress outnumbered the press. "This is already better attended than most of my Capitol Hill fundraisers," Massie quipped.

Jones and Massie were two of the Republicans leading the charge to overthrow Boehner, and both have been relegated to the fringe of the House GOP. But both insist this effort to wean Boehner's staff from the government tit is more about the budget than the man.

"This is not about John Boehner," Jones said. "This is about the taxpayers' money."

Jones said he would have moved to get rid of the post-speaker office 20 years ago if he had known about it then. "I did not know this until the lady, Ms. Ackley, I believe, at Roll Call, did an article on this about four weeks ago," Jones said. "And I said, 'Jesus Christ!'"

[Click to play full video](#)



11:34

Speaker Ryan on Getting the Smell of Smoke Out of the Speaker's Office

Indeed, the post-speaker office has been around since 1970, when Congress provided an allowance to former Speaker John McCormack after a 42-year career in the House. It's been a little-known perk ever since, even though, Jones and Massie argue, Washington has changed since McCormack.

"The difference in John McCormack and John Boehner: John McCormack was not bought and paid for by special



Two Conservative Lawmakers Are Still Trying To Get Rid Of John Boehner



According to Jones and Massie, former Speaker Dennis Hastert's post-speaker office cost taxpayers around \$1.9 million, but it could have cost up to \$4 million if Hastert had availed himself of all the perks he was legally entitled to. "They call that 'budget dust' up here," Massie joked.

Boehner is allowed three staffers: one administrative assistant making up to \$158,486 a year and two secretaries who can make up to \$133,108 and \$116,104, respectively. (The amounts are indexed to inflation, so the salaries can rise over those five years.)

While Jones and Massie both contended this wasn't about Boehner, it was difficult Wednesday not to detect at least some frustration that it was a particular Ohio Republican who would be benefiting from the office.

Both lawmakers took shots at Boehner, saying that he was going to Florida to play golf, not serve the taxpayers, and Massie made the point that Boehner in particular didn't need an office to wind down his affairs for five years.

"I guess there was a time in Congress where plans maybe lasted five years, and the incumbent needed to stick around to see the plan through," Massie said. "But none of John Boehner's plans have lasted more than six months. I mean, we have managed from crisis, to crisis, to crisis."

The conservative lawmakers are formally introducing the two-page bill to repeal the authorization for the post-speaker office on Wednesday, and they plan to write a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) urging him to include their bill in the omnibus. If not, Jones and Massie mentioned the upcoming appropriations season where there is an open amendment process.

Jones and Massie said they thought their bill, if it got a vote, would get overwhelming support. During an interview after the press conference with [Roll Call](#), Massie even said he thought every member would vote to eliminate the office.

"I think our Founding Fathers would be appalled that it's come to this," Massie said. "That not only are we providing pensions long after members of Congress are gone, but that we're also providing staff and offices and postage."

"This is just the most ridiculous thing," added Jones. "That's why the American people are just sick and tired and fed up with Washington."

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John Boehner Cries



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